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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 10TH MARCH.

IN England, says a contemporary, the journalist's desk leads to nothing except it be premature old age and occasionally the workhouse or the lunatic asylum. In Portugal, as in most Continental countries, it may lead to anything short of the throne The new Portuguese Premier, Senhor Serpa Pimentel, was till recently Editor of the Conservative *Gazette of Portugal*. And yet in England some of the best men of the country are journalists by profession.

AMONG the new anecdotes about Gordon, one refers to his resignation of the Private Secretaryship to Lord Ripon. Gordon said that he could not put up with the customs of the high social class in which he was expected to move, and said: "Dress for dinner, dress for evening parties, dress for balls, dress and decoration and dress, day after day, I could not stand the worry of it."

SIAM is the country where the baby-smokers of the world are to be found. A recent traveller mentions that he saw little children of four years, as naked as on the day they were born, trotting about Bangkok with cigarettes in their mouths. Like their fathers and mothers the women there almost beat the men in smoking. The Siamese children use their ears as cigarette and cigar holders.

CORRESPONDENTS for newspapers will do well to cut this out, and paste it on their blotting pad. It is from the Nashville *Christian Advocate*:—"Do not use abbreviations; write proper names with extra carefulness; do not write with pencil, if ink can be had; do not use pale ink if you can get black; write only on one side of the sheet; do not put matter intended for the Editor and business items on the same sheet; in obituaries leave out irrelevant matter, poetry and prayers; avoid personalities; condense."

THE boy-king of Spain, it is reported, asked a few days ago for a soft boiled egg, which he was refused, as the doctors would not let him eat it. He cried, and to calm him his mamma told him that the fowls don't lay any eggs in January. He listened quietly to what his mamma told him, but was only prefectly consoled when he was told that his mamma would send to Aranjuez to enquire whether the fowls there were perhaps more diligent than those in Madrid.

DR. BAKAL, a professor at the Transylvanian University of Klausenburg, claims to have discovered an absolutely certain remedy against hydrophobia. It consists (the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* says) of a simple mixture of chlorine and bromine, sulphurous acid, and permanganate of potash in aqueous solution, with encalyptus oil. With this the wound must be thoroughly washed, and then dressed with a piece of lint which has been soaked in the mixture. If the treatment is followed within a reasonable time after the infliction of the bite, it is said to completely destroy the virus.

TANTIA Bhil is no more, but it is not generally known that he was the means of enabling one of the Army Surgeons to perform the very interesting operation of restoring a nose on one of his victims. Surgeon D. B. Spencer, 12th K. I. K. Regiment, sends the *Indian Medical Gazette* an account of such an operation Constable Hiraman, of the Betul Police, Central Provinces, was out patrolling when Tantia's party came upon him, put him on his back, and with the aid of a sword deprived him of his nose. A month after the receipt of the injury, the victim was put under chloroform, when the usual flap operation was performed on him the flap was taken obliquely from the right side of the fore-head. The operation was very successful, the patient recovering without a bad symptom, and a good nose was formed. To judge from poor Hiraman's appearance before and after the operation he has ample reason to be thankful that he came under Dr. Spencer's skilful treatment. The operation is not uncommon in India. Peshawar, and some other of the frontier hospitals have frequently performed similar operations for women who have been victims of the jealous rage of husbands beyond the border.

TUESDAY, 11TH MARCH.

A SYDNEY paper reports an exciting scene which took place at the termination of a baby show recently held in that city. Three hundred children were exhibited, each infant being accompanied by its mother. Various prizes were offered ranging in value from £100 to £1, for the finest children. Upon the last day of the show the awards were decided by a committee of 12 medical men. The first prize was unanimously given to a very handsome baby-girl, ten months old; but, after the presentation had taken place and the committee were about to retire to the supper prepared for them, to their astonishment and alarm they were assailed by an army of two or three hundred infuriated women, each of whom declared that the judgment had been an unfair one, and that her darling alone deserved the first prize. The unfortunate men had no means of protecting themselves, their foes using their nails and umbrellas freely. The secretary in particular suffered severely, as he was held down in a corner by two energetic mothers, while a third belaboured him with a hair brush, with which she had prepared her son's toilet. The director of the exhibition was hurriedly sent for, and immediately ordered the gas to be turned off, remarking that it was no good trying to fight women, but that the sudden darkness would divert their thoughts from their prey. The plan answered admirably. As soon as the lights went out the three hundred babies began to scream for their mothers, and each mother was compelled to devote her entire attention to finding her particular baby, and to groping her way along the dark passages out of the building.

MR. LABOURCHERE writes in the last number of *Truth*—"I am told that in anticipation of the resignation of the Duke of Cambridge, the following (among other arrangements) has been suggested to the Cabinet by Mr. Stanhope, namely, the appointment of the Duke of Connaught as Commander-in-Chief, with a Chief of the Staff or Deputy-Commander-in-Chief under him." The Duke of Connaught, he continues, is but forty years old, and if I am correctly informed, is a Lieutenant-General of only two years' standing! According to one of my military advisers, 'without being a military genius, his Royal Highness is an upright soldier, popular with the army, and a gentleman.' But is he, for all this, qualified by age, experience, and ability to fill a position which is perhaps the most responsible in England outside the Cabinet?"

AN explosion has taken place at Morfa Colliery in South Wales. Hundreds of miners are entombed, and it is feared that many have perished. The explosion was felt one mile off. The mine was only examined last Wednesday in compliance with the wish of the miners, who were uneasy as to its condition. The Inspectors then declared it to be safe.

As at present arranged, Sir Frederick Roberts will leave Calcutta on the 22nd instant by train from Sealdah for Assam, and will return to Calcutta by the 31st instant.

AN Agricultural Conference is to be held at Simla on the 1st of October in connection with Dr. Volcker's mission to India, and Local Governments have been invited to send delegates.

SIR JOHN GORST has privately denied the intention to pay Uncovenanted pensions at one shilling and eightpence per rupee.

THE English Navy Estimates published show that the estimate for the current year is £13,750, being £100,000 above that of 1889. The estimated expenditure on ship-building is £6,500,000.

IN the Chamber of Deputies, France, M. Etienne, Secretary for the Colonies, announced that the King of Dahomey had invaded French territory, and was repulsed with heavy loss, but captured six Frenchmen. The French Government will exact a complete reparation from the King, and, if refused, will inflict a salutary lesson. The Government, is, however, said to have no intention to seize the King's country. The army of the King of Dahomey remains encamped at Kotonon, but the King's advisers counsel him to treat with the French. It is believed that the lives of the French captives are safe.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH.

MR. PARNELL prosecutes the *Exeter Gazette* for copying the *Times'* first accusations based on the forged documents on the following day.

A MASS meeting of 25,000 workmen, held at Hyde Park, the other day, protested against the Russian system of exile to Siberia without trial; and passed a resolution asking the English Government to intercede on the exiles' behalf.

INFORMATION has been received by the Italian Government from Massowah that King Menelek, of Shoa, accorded a splendid welcome to their Envoy, Count Antonelli, on his arrival at Makalle, and purposed marching immediately to occupy Adowa.

DEATH is announced at Bombay of Sir Mungaldas Nathoobhoy. The deceased, who was 58 years of age, was head of the Kopal bania caste, and the local representative on all public matters relating to the whole Hindu community. His ancestors arrived at Bombay fifty years after the cession of Bombay to the English, and ever since that time have been prominently connected with the history of the city. Dnring his life-time the deceased gave away nearly two and-a-half lakhs of rupees for charitable purposes.

THE total bag made by the Maharaja of Kuch Behar's shooting party was, we hear, 10 tigers, 15 buffaloes, five rhinoceros, and a bear, besides a large number of pig, deer, and small game.

THE total sum of Rs. 97,500 was subscribed by the deceased's relations to various charitable funds and institutions at the third day's funeral ceremonies in connection with the death of Lady Dinshaw Petit.

THE story hitherto accepted by all authorities that the celebrated Diamond "Koh-i-Noor" belonged to Karna, and, after his death, passed into other hands, and subsequently came into the possession of the Emperor Babar, is now discredited by Professor Valentine Ball, F. R. S., who has just published an edition of Tavernier's "Travels in India." He denies the identity of the "Koh-i-Noor" with the stone possessed by Babar. The "Koh-i-Noor" is said to have been found in the mine of Kollar near Golconda and was given in 1656—about a hundred years after its discovery—to the Great Moghul, Shah Jehan, by Mir Jumla, while Babar's diamond, of which "Karna" was the original owner, is no other than the "Dariya-i-Noor" now in the Treasury of his Majesty the Shah of Persia. As to the subsequent accounts of the "Koh-i-Noor" that it was taken from Aurungzebe's grandson by his conqueror Nadir Shah who gave it the name it now bears, that one of his successors sold it to Ahmed Shah Durani, and that the last of the Durani chiefs surrendered it to Maharajah Ranjit Singh, from one of whose descendants it passed to the English, there is no dispute. The "Koh-i-Noor" in its rough state weighed 756 carats, it was afterwards cut and reduced in weight to about 268 carats. According to Professor Ball's theory it was again cut in Persia to about 186 carats, and in England to 106 carats.

AN extract from the *Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century* is quoted in *Notes and Queries*:—"In April, 1821, a man named John Horwood was hanged at the usual place [in Bristol] for the murder of a girl. . . . The following tradesman's account is the first manuscript contained in a book in the infirmary library: 'Bristol, June, 1828. Richard Smith, Esq., Dr to H. H. Essex. To binding, in the skin of John Horwood, a variety of papers, &c., relating to him, the same being lettered on each side of the book "Cutis vera Johannis Horwood." £1 10s. Perhaps all that can be said in excuse for such an act is that it had been surpassed in a neighbouring county in a few years previously. According to the *Bristol Journal* of May 11, 1816, after a man named Marsh had been hanged in Somerset for murder, his body was flayed, and his skin sent to Taunton to be tanned." Horrible, indeed!

SIR GEORGE GREAVES, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, has sent fifty horses to Bombay. His Excellency has likewise forwarded Rs. 1,500 as subscription to the Poona Hunt. He is not only an energetic soldier but an enthusiastic sportsman and a keen polo-player.

THURSDAY, 13TH MARCH.

THE German Emperor's project of an International Labour Conference is said to have engaged his attention ever since his accession. Being reassured by his visits to Vienna and St. Petersburg as to the prospects of European peace, he turned his attention to the labour question. He is resolved to carry out his programme of labour reforms in Germany even if the other Powers refuse to co-operate.

FRENCH meteorologists have just discovered that the Eiffel Tower will prove far more valuable to them for observation than was at first imagined. Indeed, it is said, that it possesses most of the advantages of an observatory built upon a mountain. In confirmation of this, it is stated that, recently, while a severe frost prevailed in the city, a strong warm breeze was blowing at the summit of the tower, and it was three days before this temperature reached the ground.

THE publishers of the *Bhowruggur Exposure Gazette* have been arrested and placed in custody on a charge of defamation.

IT is under contemplation to form an Indian Board of Directors of the East Indian Railway Company, by whose experience and knowledge the Board in England may be guided.

THE Finances of the Hyderabad State are not at all in a good and satisfactory condition. We hear that the Income-tax will be levied there on the same scale as that which prevails in British India. There is another proposal before the Minister of the State. Up to the present all letters from the British territories to Hyderabad bearing English postage stamps were exempted by the Post Office from any fresh demand of postage, while the letters from the States bearing the Nizam's postage stamps are regarded as 'bearing' in the English territories. Now the Minster has asked that the English Government should concede the same privileges in the matter of postage stamps of the State as have been conceded to it by the State.

AN exhaustive history of the Punjab is about to be published. It is from the pen of a Mahomedan, Sayed Muhammed Latif, Magistrate of Gurdaspur, and is to be published under the patronage of the Punjab Government, which has promised to give a grant-in-aid towards the expenses of the publication and also to purchase a certain number of copies.

HARD WORK.—"What is your secret?" asked a lady of Turner, the distinguished painter. He replied, "I have no secret, madam, but hard work." Says Dr. Arnold, "The difference between one man and another is not so much in talent as in energy." "Nothing," says Reynolds, "is denied to well directed labour, and nothing is to be obtained without it." "Excellence in any department," says Johnson, "can now be obtained by the labour of a life-time, but it is not to be purchased at a lesser price." "There is but one method," says Sidney Smith, "and that is hard labour; and a man who will not pay that price for distinction had better at once dedicate himself to the pursuit of the fox." "Step by step," reads the French proverb, "one goes very fair." "Nothing,' says Mirabeau, "is impossible to the man who can work hard. This is the only law of success." "Have you ever entered a cottage, ever travelled in a coach, ever talked with a peasant in the field or loitered with a mechanic at the loom," asked Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, "and not found that each of these men had a talent you had not, knew something you knew not?" The most useless creature that ever yawned at a club, or idled in rags under the suns of Calabria, has no excuse for want of intellect What men want is not talent, but purpose; in other words, not the power to achieve but the will to labour."

A NEW application of electricity is the button-hole light. It may be used for railway travelling. "Your battery (charged with the patent fluid) is something like the case of a big opera-glass. You may place it in your side pocket, or on the seat beside you, or behind you, or in your handbag. When you are comfortably seated, you fix your tiny globe, say, in your button-hole. The globe is connected with the battery by a thread (insulated wire.) Then you touch a tiny switch on the opera-glass-like object and in an eye-wink your glass button-hole becomes an incandescent lamp, and you whip out your evening paper, or the latest book on Socialism. A nice light, too, for reading in bed, and extraordinarily cheap."

THE Bombay Municipality have accepted the offer of Sir Dinshaw Petit of a lakh of rupees for the building of 'a home' for the lepers of Bombay. It is probable that Prince Albert Victor will be asked during his visit to lay the foundation stone.

FRIDAY, 14TH MARCH.

MR. A. C. Dutt, in writing to the *Daily News* from Scarborough, says:—"In your interesting review of Dr. Oppert's new book you say it is an ascertained fact that some of the Aryan invaders intermarried with aboriginal tribes. There is a strong presumption that a few such marriages were contracted in face of the stringent regulation of Aryan society. The offspring of such unions were termed Chandals (unclean) and outcastes. To prevent deterioration of the race by intermixture of aboriginal blood, the caste system was introduced by which Aryans and non-Aryans were forbidden to intermarry. Up to the present day the higher castes—Brahmins, Rajputs, Vaisyas, and some Sudras of India, or to take a smaller area, the Brahmins and Kshetriyas of Bengal—are, in the main, purely Aryan; a fact which goes far to disprove the theory that the Aryans ever suffered their stock to be degraded by intermarriage with less civilized tribes."

A SANITARIUM in Burma for troops and officials has been a long felt want. A site has been discovered in the Byingye Range which appears to be suited for the purpose. The range is within easy distance of the Shewmyo Railway, and is about 4 miles in length; it consists of a group of hills from 5,400 to 6,300 feet in height. As regards the temperature, it was only 62 degrees in the shade at noon and 44 degrees at night on the 3rd of January, at a height of 5,500 feet.

The Medical Officer of Bellary has found by satisfactory experiments that vaccine lymph can be obtained as efficiently from the donkey as from the calf. The new discovery is cheaper, as both the cost and the keep of the donkey are less than the calf.

THE Mohunt of Tripati's appeal against his conviction and sentence by the North Arcot Sessions Judge was partly heard at the Madras High Court on the 11th instant before the Chief Justice and Justices Mutusawmy Iyer and Shephard. During the hearing, the Chief Justice remarked that the practice of counsel dropping a criminal case when fees were unpaid was very reprehensible. It was wrong to abandon an accused person thus: it was mercenary, and very unprofessional to stoop to being hired by the day as a common bricklayer. In a civil case it was different. In a criminal case counsel was bound to proceed with it if once engaged. The Mohunt of Tripati was very perilously prejudiced in his defence in the lower court by the change of counsel several times. In this important case, at least two lawyers should have conducted and continued it to the end except for valid reasons. His Lordship added that if any member of the local Bar was brought before him for such practice, he would deal with him as he deserved, no matter what the alleged practice of the local Bar was.

THE Government Secretariats close at Calcutta for work on the following dates:—The Finance and Legislative Departments on the 28th instant; the Home and Revenue on the 29th instant, and the Public Works and Foreign Departments on the 31st instant and 3rd April, respectively,

ON Tuesday afternoon on the East Indian Railway at Howrah, a goods train consisting of 25 wagons and a pilot engine was shunted on to a line in the coal yard, but by oversight the main line was not kept clear. At 3-30 P. M the Tarkessur Down train No. 86 approached, and after passing a little beyond the Chandmaree Bridge, entered the line on which stood the goods train. The driver applied the brake, but the two trains collided with a tremendous crash, and several passengers narrowly escaped with their lives, receiving some severe cuts and bruises. The damage to rolling stock is considerable, the buffers of the engines of both trains being completely smashed, and several wagons being derailed. The jemadar in charge of the points will be placed before the Deputy Magistrate of Howrah for trial. About a couple of hours later another accident, though of a less serious nature, occurred on the same railway. The Pundooah Mail train was being made up and while the train was being shunted on the line near the station platform, the brake and the tender got derailed. A jack screw was then brought into requisition, and while the brake was being lifted up the former slipped and fell on the leg of a lascar, fracturing it. The man now lies in a precarious condition in the Howrah General Hospital.

THE clerks of one of the departments in London have presented a memorial to the Treasury, respectfully but firmly expressing their inability to comply with an order requiring them to work seven instead of six hours a day. The Treasury had required an extra hour for half an hour's pay. Our *Keranis* here have to work more than 8 hours a day.

SATURDAY, 15TH MARCH.

THE School Board for London have decided for free education. They have come to a Resolution that admission to all public elementary schools in receipt of grants from the State should be free, and that the schools should be under representative management. The statistical committee have orders to prepare a petition to Parliament. In Bengal, the Government is preparing for an education cess, without intending to make the schools free.

A shocking murder has been committed at a village some fifteen miles from Serajgunge. A Kabuli pedlar was found dead in a hut in the village. The hut and every thing go to show that he was murdered while asleep. The wounds inflicted are many and very severe. The occurrence took place some four days ago. No one has as yet been arrested, and no very reliable information is to hand from the scene of the occurrence. About three years ago some Kabulis were murderously attacked in a village in the same neighbourhood.

BABU P. C. LAHA is to be congratulated on the pluck shown by him during his last balloon ascent. The following personal narrative of his will be read with interest:—

"When my balloon was filled with 28,000 cubic feet of coal gas, I took my seat, having nothing with me, except my pocket knife and a barometer. At a height of 500 feet I noticed that the gate of the Tivoli Gardens was visible over the heads of the crowds of people who had assembled round the balloon. Then I rose rapidly, and when the barometer showed a height of 5,000 feet the whole city of Calcutta was spread out below me, and the Hooghli river appeared like a silver thread. I could see motion all over the city, but could not tell in which direction the people were moving. The houses and large buildings looked like specks. At the height of 8, 000 feet, ocean came into view very small and round. I knew it was the ocean, near the Soonderbunds. I rose 2,000 feet more, and then felt it growing cold. I still went higher, and as it was getting dark I saw that the elevation was 15,000 feet. I do not know how much higher I rose, as I could not read the barometer any more, but the cold became so intense that I could not pull the strings of the valves nor use my hands in any way. But I was not the least alarmed, as I knew the balloon must begin to descend of its own accord after a time. In fact, I felt no fear whatever from the time I went up till I came down again, not even when it became perfectly dark, and I did not know where I was, and could see nothing except the stars. Before it became dark I had seen the sun go down below the horizon. I never saw the sun so far down before. Several large birds with wings stretching nearly two yards across were sailing about, but they flew far away when the balloon came near them. After a time the moon rose, and I knew I was going down, for I held up my handkerchief and the current of air blew it upward. About half an hour later or about 8-30 o'clock, I reached the ground. I jumped from a height of twelve feet, in order to avoid the shock when the balloon touched earth. I had quiet recovered the use of my hands and opening a valve caused the gas to escape, and the balloon to collapse. The place was the village of Bhojpur Haut, about forty miles east of Calcutta. Babu Mohendra Nath Biswas, the zemindar of the place, and many villagers had assembled to see the balloon come down. They knew it was a balloon, but did not know whether a European or a Native was in it. The Babu shook hands with me, and all the people were very much surprised and pleased. They got me a boat and I came to Calcutta by the canal, bringing my balloon with me, and reached the city at four o'clock on Sunday morning. I did not see the lights of the city from the balloon, but saw them when I got here in the boat."

Babu P. C. Laha proposes to try a parachute descent at an early date, and seriously thinks of taking to ballooning as a profession.

THE Hon. Humayun Jah, grandson of Tippoo Sultan, who has been the Mahomedan member of the Madras Legislative Council for twenty years, is re-appointed.

DURING the debate in the House of Commons on Mr. Smith's motion, Lord Randolph Churchill bitterly attacked the Government and condemned the Parnell Commission, the sole result of which had been the monster Pigott. His Lordship described the closure as a tyrannical instrument for the oppression of the minority, and said that the entire procedure in connection with the Parnell Commission was utterly unconstitutional.

TCHEBRIKOVA, the female Nihilist who wrote a letter to the Czar threatening his life, has been arrested. She returned to Russia in order to provoke arrest. The letter which she had written contained a passionate appeal for reforms. One word from the Czar, she says, would be sufficient to effect a pacific revolution.

THE Portuguese National Defence Fund has turned out a fiasco. Beyond the contributions from the Royalists and the leading Monarchists scarcely five thousand pounds have been collected.

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor in Wednesday's *Calcutta Gazette* officially recognises the liberality and public spirit of Babu Brija Mohun Thakur and Rai Hari Mohun Thakur Bahadur, of Bhaugulpur, for having made a donation of Rs. 1,000 [illegible] of the funds of the Behar Sanskrit Sa[illegible] Sabha.

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The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1890.

THE TRIAL OF THOMAS O'HARA.

LAW and legal quibble have triumphed over justice, and the triumph has given to the public a rude and painful shock. The ignorant who have not heard of or forgotten the execution of George Nairans for the murder of an unoffending villager of Budgebudge would be but confirmed in their conviction that Europeans are above law and British-born subjects may murder 'black bastards' with impunity. Such a conviction is no airy fruit of a heated and perverse imagination that can see nothing good in the reigning order of things, and it has unfortunately seized upon the community with no bated strength by the unaccountable discharge of Thomas O'Hara by the Full Bench of the High Court on Tuesday last. The Bench sitting in review upon the verdict of a Special Jury quashed the conviction, and set the prisoner at liberty even before its apology for doing so was ready. A few more hours' detention was evidently an inconvenience that the innocent and injured man could not be put to, and he was discharged though judgment in the case was not delivered till the next day. If the anxiety for the prisoner's personal accommodation was so great on the Bench, common decency required that the judgment should be forthwith pronounced and not deferred for mature consideration to guard itself against possible public criticism. A decree preceding a judgment is an order of things to which even the litigants in British Indian Courts whose experiences of law are vast and varied indeed, are not familiarly accustomed, and if the express provisions of law in this regard have not been openly disregarded much has been done to interfere with the maintenance of its dignity. To the High Court we are accustomed to look up as the safe repository of our liberties and many things more, and if even there things are to be permitted that would raise a blush if occurring in the distant mafassil, public regard and veneration for the tribunal is calculated not a little to suffer. O'Hara may be innocent for aught we know, and he may be the innocent victim of a base conspiracy between the wicked Sheik Selim and his designing wife and artful mother. It was no business of this "black bastard" of whom we are told there are plenty without him, to do aught but what would afford sport to the spirited British soldier—and to die from the effects of the bullet playfully shot was a peice of wanton malice that would be most severely punished if he could be got at. As he is dead, however, there is no hing to be done but to get out the gallant sportsman out of a scrape whose only fault was to mistake a "black bastard" for a pig.

The machinery of law luckily afforded a ready instrument at hand, and the object has been attained with a degree of finish that is marvellous and awesome at the same time to contemplate. A special Jury, the pick of the prisoner's countrymen for the most part, presided over by a Judge who up to now was regarded as an authority on criminal law, try the accused who has the services of one of the ablest leaders of the bar. They accord him a protracted and patient trial, have the advantage of listening to the evidence of the witnesses direct, consider the case in all its aspects and as honest and intelligent citizens bring in a verdict of guilty. The defence of *alibi* miserably fails which supports all the more strongly the presumption of the prisoner's guilt. The only drawback that can be pointed to is that the learned presiding Judge had mistaken his functions a little, and warned some of the witnesses as if they were accomplices, but in his subsequent charge to the Jury declared that they were none. That is supposed to vitiate the whole trial, and a shocking failure of justice is allowed because of some impulsive utterances of the presiding Judge which could possibly affect the merits of the case. The prisoner's friends who are no doubt influentially connected obtain an elaborate certificate from the Advocate General, secure the services of a Counsel who is not wrongly supposed to be capable of effecting what to others may seem impossibilities, and get it ruled that admission of the evidence of an accomplice and misdirection to the Jury had prejudiced the prisoner so far as to entitle him to a revision by the Full Bench. But elaborate as the judgment of the Full Bench on this point is, no attempt is anywhere made to define as to what would constitute an accomplice, or if the necessary elements existed in the case of the witnesses Goldsborough or Macdermott. If their passive presence at the scene constituted them as accomplices, conviction for any offences under circumstances such as these would be an impossibility, for independent witnesses are not ordinarily summoned by the criminal to take note of what he does on the occasion. An accomplice raises a presumption of crime and involves the punishment of the whole set, and if Goldsborough's and Macdermott's testimony is to be rejected on the ground of their being accomplices, their proper place would be the dock and not the box, apart from the question of pardon by way of securing Queen's evidence. And since Bellew has been acquitted, the remaining member of the party of four, namely, O'Hara, must be guilty of that of which Goldsborugh and Macdermott were his accomplices. This by itself is a quibble no doubt, but a quibble that is entitled to have some weight attached to it, considering how quibbles play an important part in the administration of law. By a process of ingenious elimination two of the guilty persons are in the first instance accorded the protection of pardon, the third is let off because even on the Queen's evidence there is no sufficient proof against him, and the fourth too gets off at the end on the ground that the first two are unworthy of credence; *ergo*, if you can get the witnesses of your crime partake of the character of accomplices you are safe. This we think is directly antagonistic to the spirit of the Indian Evidence Act. Apart from the legal merits of the case, we have the excellent result of all the four perpetrators of about as heinous acrime that was ever committed or conceived, being discharged, and an actual premium is put upon murder and rapine by those wearing the Queen's uniform. The consequence will be fearful in the neighbourhood of Cantonment towns, and military murders, which so long were luckily confined to barracks and the parade-ground, will increase in the surrounding villages, where limbs and property and female honor are in no sense secure in the existing state of things. Administrative vigour cannot surely be very great in a country, when it is possible for four enlisted soldiers belonging to different regiments to concert plans to break away at dead of night from their barracks, steal ammunition, commit a whole list of crimes in the Penal Code, and conclude their spree by taking the life of an unoffending poor ryot in a deliberately cold blooded fashion; and finally get off triumphant at the mockery of a trial. All this takes place in and about the Metropolis of British India, only making people wonder what may not happen in a remote corner. And such is said to be the law, and people must humbly bow to the decision of those charged with its administration.

It is, however, by no means clear that law has been at all administered well. Mr. Phillips pointed out with great force that whether Macdermott and Goldsborough were or were not accomplices, and whether their testimony was worth any thing in one or the other light, was a pure question of fact that had to be solely judged and determined by the jury, whatever the charge of the Judge upon this point may have been. According to this contention the presiding Judge's misdirection, however flagrant and regretable it might be, would not any way affect the verdict, and if so this was not a matter upon which the Revisional Court would have any jurisdiction under section 26 of the Charter, as it only deals with a question of fact and not of law. Mr. Phillips further pointed out that Goldsborough's first statement to the Magistrate had been made *before* and *not after* the fact of the reward and pardon having been offered became known to him, because he was in hospital where probably quietly thinking over the matter he had decided to make a clean breast of it. And so far as his drunken quarrel with Bellew was concerned as a motive for the disclosure, it is noticeable that the quarrel took place *after* Goldsborough's first statement and he never sought to implicate Bellew as the principal in the crime which would be no more difficult than to implicate O'Hara. The much boasted argument about accomplices does not, therefore, seem to have very intelligent grounds to stand upon, and due importance was not attached by the Full Bench to the evidence of Bhutnath Parsee who at all events was no accomplice. Justice Norris with commendable candour, no doubt, took upon himself the blame of misdirection and it does his heart great credit. But we are not prepared to concede that considering the way in which the Jury was empanelled there was any serious misdirection such as would affect the judgment of the nine intelligent gentlemen who were there upon their oath to try a fellowman, and a countryman too, for his life. Such a concession would carry with it the presumption of the failure of trial by Jury in this as well as in all other countries, for no better Jury could possibly be conceived than that which tried and convicted O'Hara. When, therefore, the Full Bench after deciding the point of law in the prisoner's favour came to take upon themselves the combined function of Judge and Jury, and proceeded to try the case themselves upon the scanty notes of the presiding Judge which were admittedly inaccurate, the strange and irregular procedure evoked a strong protest for even so staid and sober a man as the learned Standing Counsel on the ground that their lordships were introducing a most dangerous innovation. The Jury system was being seriously encroached upon, and a dangerous precedent set up for reviewing upon anything but "full and sufficient" materials such as the law contemplates. The case was eminently one for going back to the jury, and if a new trial could not be ordered under Section 26 of the Charter, of which we are not yet persuaded, the Full Bench should not have disturbed the verdict of the jury, but should have exercised their discretionary power in mitigating the sentence passed in the lower Court in consideration of the comparative weakness of evidence. But to quash the conviction altogether and to discharge the prisoner was not warranted by the situation, particularly when there was the clearest evidence of the murder having been committed, and the prisoner being one of the four that *must* have committed it, even if he was not by himself the actual perpetrator of the fell crime. The Penal Code is sufficiently comprehensive to hang all the four, and if none is hanged, or in any way punished, it is not because the Code itself is weak or the proof total is insufficient.

The judgment of the Full Bench was both on the questions of law and fact susceptible of a good deal of improvement, but in none is there a single convincing argument adduced to make it clear to the lay mind that the discharge of O'Hara is lawful or just. We have heard it suggested that advantage may be taken of the fact of this prisoner's having been "discharged" and not aquittted and he may be placed on his trial again, as Bellew who has not been declared to be an accomplice may, if he chooses, throw some light on the question and may corroborate the "accomplices." Another suggestion is that all four should be placed on their trial on the lesser crimes that have been brought home to them on clear evidence. We for ourselves do not expect any great results from carrying out these suggestions, if indeed we knew who *would* carry them out. Although the prisoner's discharge was ordered, the judgment that followed it clearly points to an *acquittal*, for a discharge in review and after sentence is not in the ordinary course of things. But supposing legal quibbles of equal strength came to our rescue, we hardly know whether there would be interest enough in the proper quarter to see that justice has her dues. There is an impression that His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor take deep interest in the case, and it may after all turn out that under superior pressure the suggestions will be taken up. The Honorable General Chesney, the military member of the Supreme Council, also displayed great interest in the case and was present at the first day's Full Bench hearing. It is probably at the instance of the Honorable General that the four soldiers are now under military arrest awaiting trial for breach of regimental law. But the prevailing idea is that they will get off

with a few 'cuts' and no retribution will follow poor Selim's violent death. We shall anxiously await the course of events and watch whether Government may not be equal to the occasion and see justice vindicated, though our Courts of law may be too weak for it.

And now arises a question that puts O'Hara's isolated case to shade in point of interest and importance. If the law is not strong enough for justice it should be made so. If Section 26 of the Charter does not invest the Revisional Bench with sufficient powers to order a new trial under circumstances such as these, such power ought to be secured and its revisional powers strictly defined. Machinery ought also to be provided for properly recording evidence in the Sessions Court in view of any occasion that may arise for exercise of revisional jurisdiction upon full and proper materials. Care should also be taken to see that presiding Judges may bestow their "full and careful attention" upon the question at issue before condemning the accused to eternal doom. If O'Hara is really innocent of the fearful crime that was laid to his door, it is by the merest accident that his neck has been saved. Upon how much more weak evidence, circumstantial rubbish they call it in law, was poor Sudhhabodh Bhattacharjee hanged, and may not many more have been similarly condemned? These are reflections that one shudders to make, and yet they present themselves very forcibly to the most casual thinker. It is not all that can engage counsel like Messrs. Woodroffe and Pugh. It is not every humble prisoner that can reach the Advocate General, and procure his certificate, the *sine qua non* for the exercise of revisional jurisdiction under Section 26 of the Charter. And if under such a favourable combination of circumstances alone can a man be saved from the triumph of law, law would be but poor indeed. Capital sentence cases from the mafassil come up to the High Court for confirmation, and in some instances the finding and sentence in the Sessions Court have to be quashed or modified. In the Presidency such a safeguard was deemed unnecessary, probably because of a High Court Judge presiding at the trial, and the jury available here is considered more enlightened and intelligent and better constituted than in the mafassil. But here we had just a case in which the verdict of a special jury consisting of about the best men that could be got together, presided over by a Judge whose criminal experiences are great, is found by the Revisional Bench to have been faulty; and a man who would have been hanged but for its interference is actually discharged. All this makes it incumbent upon the Legislature to provide some safeguard in the Presidency as is already in the Mafassil, no matter whether it be in the form of appeal, review or revision. Most murder cases in the Calcutta Sessions Court go undefended, and it is terrible to think how many judicial murders may not have been unwittingly committed, and only because there has not been this safeguard. Glorious as the uncertainties of law assuredly are, it is dangerous to add to their number if there be any help for it.

It has in this connection been stated that the Leinster Regiment bore the expenses of the defence together with the Defence Association. The Leinster Regiment is quite within its rights to save one of its members from trouble by any lawful means. But the same can hardly be said of a public Association whose object cannot be to put a premium upon murder. We are unwilling to believe this of an Association that has outlived days of aspersion and bitterness of feeling, and steadily settling down to legitimate work. It has not at all events openly avowed its sympathy with crime, and we have no right to assume anything against it, particularly when the community it represents shows no such sympathy. The *Englishman*, the *Pioneer*, the *Indian Daily News*, all express chagrin and disappointment at this miserable miscarriage of justice, and such sentiments do them credit, while they go a great way in removing the misunderstanding that unfortunately yet exists between the communities. That a murderer should escape his just penalty cannot be the desire of any right-minded European, whatever racial considerations there may be in other matters. The newspaper exuberance in the correspondence columns is mostly froth of a questionable character, the value of which is fully known to the right-minded. The verdict of the jury consising of eight Europeans ought to give the lie to any such presumption, for if a fellow-countryman was to be saved nothing would be easier for the jurymen than to pronounce him not guilty. We trust for the sake of the Defence Association that it has not mixed itself up with this unfortunate affair. It is a glory of British administration that life and property of all are safe under it, and it cannot redound to its credit that its own soldiers should with impunity disturb and violate such security. We feel pursuaded that Lord Lansdowne will not allow the case to rest where it does.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S DEFENCE OF ITS EXCISE POLICY.

IN our last issue we noticed briefly the Despatch addressed by the Government of India to the Secretary of State on the 4th ultimo regarding its Excise administration. But the subject is so important that it demands a more extended consideration. The despatch deserves special mention for the dignified candour of the Government of India's confession of the error into which it was betrayed in sanctioning an extension of the outstill system in Bengal. In para 5 of the Despatch the Government of India writes:—"Although we admit that an error was committed in so greatly extending the outstill system after 1877 and especially in removing the limitation on the capacity of outstills, and although we regret that the change was made we are unable to find in the facts any sufficient support for the assertion that we are indifferent to the increase of drinking on the part of the Indian population." Again, in para 54 we read:—"We have already explained the circumstances under which, owing to the growth of illicit distillation under the Central distillery system outstills were, after 1877, extensively re-introduced throughout Bengal. We have admitted that the change was made without sufficient discrimination, and that coupled with the removal of the restriction on the capacity of outstills, it led to an increase of drinking." This frank confession is highly honourable to the Government of India. We know there are men who would have the Government of India to prohibit the liquor trade altogether; but no reasonable man would recommend the adoption of such a course. Indeed, the extension of the outstill system is the one serious mistake with which we have charged the Government of India. The frank expression of regret for it which we have quoted above does great credit to Lord Lansdowne and his colleagues. We have no hesitation whatever in saying that if this confession had been made earlier it would have satisfied all right-minded critics, and the Excise administration of the Government of India would not have received the condemnation of the House of Commons. We need not here remind the reader of the circumstances which led to the extension of the outstill system in Bengal after 1877. The new and improved *ticcadari* system which was introduced by Sir John Strachey, who has been justly described as "the evil genius of the Government of India," as soon as he became our Finance Minister, compelled the Local Governments to devise means for increasing their revenues. At this time Mr. C. T. Buckland who was, as Junior Member of the Board of Revenue, charged with the Excise administration of Bengal, conceived the brilliant idea of extending the outstill system throughout these provinces. And with the adoption of this measure the revenue derived from country spirits in Bengal began to increase by leaps and bounds. It was doubled in the short space of seven years, having risen from 26¼ lakhs in 1876-77 to 52¼ lakhs in 1883-84.

While admitting the mistakes of the outstill administration, the Government of India would have the public believe that as soon as it was discovered that the re-introduction of outstills throughout Bengal had led to an increase of drinking, *steps were taken to remedy the evil.* On this point we feel bound to join issue with the Government of India. The Government of Sir Rivers Thompson was forced by public opinion to appoint a Commission to enquire into the Excise administration of Bengal. The Commission recommended a large contraction of the outstill system. The conclusions of the Commission were accepted by the Local Government and the Government of India, but steps were not immediately taken to give practical effect to them. The Report of the Commission, it should be remembered, was laid before the Government of Bengal in September 1884; but the outstill system was maintained for some years longer. Even after the submission of the Commission's report various attempts were made to procure the continuance of the outstill system by correcting its abuses. These attempts, as might have been expected, turned out unsuccessful. It was only after Mr. Westmacott had laid before the Bengal Government the result of his enquiries into the practical working of the outstill system in the rural tracts of the districts of Hooghly and Howrah that Sir Steuart Bayley was convinced of the impossibility of placing that system on a sound and satisfactory footing. Last summer His Honor, in reviewing the Board's report on the administration of the Excise Department in 1888-89, declared his determination to abolish the outstill system in all places to which Central distilleries were suited. It will thus be seen that the Bengal Government took nearly six years after the submission of the Commission's report to arrive at its decision in favour of the abolition of the outstill system. We fully agree with the Government of India as to the unfairness of treating the change in the system made in Bengal in 1877 as a fair representation of the results of its Excise policy. But we cannot accept the view, that as soon as it was discovered that the extension of the outstill system had led to an increase of drinking steps were taken to remedy the evil. We have shown above that this was not the case and that the determination to abolish the outstill system was not formed until every means to correct its abuses had been tried and had turned unsuccessful. Nor do we go entirely with the Government of India that in recent years drinking has decreased in Bengal. For our part we do not see any evidence of decrease. The total revenue derived from country spirits in these provinces in 1883-84 was, as stated above, 52¼ lakhs. In the three years following there was a slight decrease; but the revenue again rose to 52 lakhs in 1887-88, and last year it stood at nearly 51 lakhs. It may be granted that drinking has not increased in Bengal since the submission of the report of the Excise Commission; but no evidence is forthcoming to show that it has decreased.

We must confess that there is much force in the Government of India's contention that great difficulties are encountered in this country in dealing with the excise question, and that it is impossible to adopt a uniform Abkari system. But it seems to us that the Government of India exaggerates the risk of illicit distillation. It holds that there is no room for doubt that illicit distillation prevails in many parts of India. Without going so far with Mr. Samuel Smith as to hold that illicit drinking is a mere bugbear, we cannot agree with the Government that illicit distillation is easily carried on and difficult to detect. If the police be worth their salt illicit distillation cannot be so widely prevalent as the Government of India supposes. At any rate, it is impossible to believe that the increase of revenue derived from country spirits which has doubled itself in Bengal during the last 12 years, really means suppression of smuggling rather than growth in consumption. This explanation will not commend itself to the common sense of thinking persons. We know that the main principle on which the excise policy of the Government of India is based is to obtain a maximum of revenue from a minimum of consumption; but in this as in so many other matters which affect the revenue the practice does not unfortunately coincide with the theory. As a matter of fact, the officers who succeed in increasing the receipts from any source of revenue are favourably reported on and obtain reward in the shape of rapid promotion. And this is as much the case in the Excise as in the settlement of Income-Tax Department,

THE FINANCIAL POSITION IN 1888-89.

THE Appropriation Report on the Accounts of 1888-89 published in the *Gazette of India* of the 8th instant, enables us to form a correct estimate of the financial position of the Government of India during that year. It will be in the recollection of the reader that towards the close of 1887-88 it was found necessary to increase the rate of salt duty and impose a duty on the import of petroleum. Full allowance was made for these measures in the Budget of 1888-89, which shewed a surplus of 42½ lakhs of rupees, excluding the charges for Special Defence Works. But the revenue from salt was nearly half a crore less than had been anticipated, and the collections of land revenue in March 1889 were small, partly on account of unfavourable season and poor crops, and partly from a change in the date of payment. Not only was the revenue less than had been expected, but the expenditure was also larger than had been provided for. The rate of exchange suffered a fall of over a half penny per rupee and the Sikkim-Hazara, and Lushai Expedition cost 37½ lakhs. But these adverse circumstances, we are glad to find, were more than counterbalanced by improvements in various heads of revenue, principally Forest and Exchange on Railway transactions, and by reductions in expenditure especially under Land Revenue and Civil Works. The actual result produced in the accounts of 1888-89 is a surplus of 82 lakhs without the expenditure for Special Defence Works, or 3¾ lakhs including it.

In the Appropriation Report under notice which may be treated as a satisfactory preparation for the Financial Statement which will be published in the course of the week, the accounts of 1888 89 are first contrasted with those of the preceding year and then with the Budget estimate. A comparison with the year 1887-88 shows a large increase under the principal heads of revenue, amounting to nearly three crores. Of this increase a little more than a crore is due to salt owing to the enhanced rate of duty, of which mention has been made above. Opium also has improved from a rise in the price of the Bengal drug, and Forest from the restoration of order in Burma and the extension of the area under the Forest Administration. The railway revenue has been enlarged by the opening of new lines and extension of old ones, but it is counterbalanced to some extent by a rise in railway expenditure. The irrigation revenue was improved by opening additional lengths of canals in Upper India. There has also been a rise under the head of Interest, owing to the investment of large balances in England at favourable rates. The land revenue was short in Bengal partly from suspensions in districts which were suffering from scanty harvests, and in Madras from the scarcity in Ganjam and from postponement of the dates fixed for some of the instalments. The Madras revenue was unusually large in 1887-88 and included some advance payments. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh receipts were enhanced by unexpected sales of waste lands and the Bombay receipts by the value of the land taken up for the new municipal offices in Bombay. The growing receipts in Upper Burma are due to the establishment of order in that duty. In Assam the land revenue was collected promptly, especially in the permanently-settled districts of Sylhet and Cachar. The improvement in the Court-fee Stamps in 1888-89 in the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, the Punjab, and Madras was due to increased litigation which in the Punjab was especially noticeable in those districts where settlement operations were in progress. There was a falling off in the number of suits instituted in Burma, Assam and Bengal. As regards commercial and other stamps, almost all the provinces show improved receipts, but the improvement is especially noticeable in Burma, where it is due partly to a stricter enforcement of the Stamp Act, and partly to documents being registered locally in larger numbers instead of being sent to Calcutta for this purpose. The Excise revenue was unusually high in 1887 88; but as this was due to exceptional causes the Budget for 1888-89 was framed for a lower amount. Owing to bad harvests the Central Provinces revenue was depressed in 1887-88, but it recovered in the year under report, though not to the extent anticipated in the Budget. The license and distillery fees in Burma show a large increase, which is attributed to increase of the population and to the liquors having been brought more under central distillery system and illicit distillation checked. In Bengal the Excise revenue declined in 1888-89 in consequence of the high price of food grains in some parts of the province. In the Punjab the increase in the revenue is attributed to improved administration leading to the substitution of licit for illicit consumption. The rise in Madras is due to greater competition among bidders, and the expansion in Bombay to a good season and general prosperity. The large amount of import duties realised in 1888-89 as compared with the previous year is the result mainly of the tax on petroleum. The Budget was framed with a view to this increase, which, however, was counterbalanced in Burma by a falling off in the duty on liquors and on arms, while in Bengal, Madras and Bombay, the increase was greater than was anticipated. In Bengal and Madras, the duty on liquors was also larger than was expected in the Budget. The receipts from export duties in Burma, Bengal and Bombay fell off owing to smaller exports of rice from those ports.

Turning to the expenditure side of the Report under notice, we observe that the most prominent difference between the two years embraced in it is in the opium charges. This is due to the produce received by the Opium Department in 1888-89 having been largely in excess of the corresponding deliveries in the previous year. The next difference is in the Forest charges, which are higher in 1888-89 by nearly 72 lakhs, of which upwards of 50 lakhs occurred in Upper Burma, having been paid in satisfaction of claims upon the former Government of the country. The expenditure on the Civil Departments shows an increase, which is mainly due to charges on account of Upper Burma. A portion of the increase occurs under the head of Courts of Law, owing to the additions that have been made to the number of Subordinate Judges and Munsifs in Bengal. As regards army expenditure in India, the actuals of 1888-89 were lower than the previous year, owing mainly to a reduction in special charges, which occurred in connection with operations in Burma. The expenditure on special defence works shows an increase over the figures of the previous year, which is principally due to coast defences at Rangoon, Karachi and Bombay having been pushed on more rapidly, and to larger payments having been made by the Secretary of State on account of armaments. But the saving of 33 lakhs on the Budget Estimate is due to the payments in England on account of heavy guns having been unavoidably retarded and to the requirements for the fortifications at Aden and for establishment having been over-estimated. As regards expenditure not charged to revenue, we find that it exceeded that of the previous year by about 92 lakhs. In the case of capital outlay on railways the differences are due to two main causes: the practical completion in 1887-88 of certain lines and the transfer of others to companies. The capital outlay in irrigation works was in some instances over-estimated. It will be remembered that during the year 1888-89 the Government of India introduced a scheme under which local loans may be made under certain conditions from resources at the disposal of Provincial Governments. In accordance with this scheme, a separate account has been opened with each Government, commencing with the actual outstanding balance of advances and loans in each province on 31st March 1888. Such further sums are placed at the disposal of the Provincial Governments as have been sanctioned by the Government of India, after a consideration of its available balances during the year and of the demands presented. For the sums so assigned by the Government of India the Provincial Governments pay interest at 4 per cent, and, on the other hand, they receive credit for the full amount of interest realised on these loans and advances, and are debited with any sums which it may be necessary to write off as irrecoverable. As the scheme was in operation for only three months during the year 1888-89, a correct opinion on its working cannot be formed until the accounts of the year 1889-90, which is about to come to a close, have been published.

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LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS Excellency the Viceroy leaves the Presidency *en route* for Simla on the 30th instant.

LADY LANSDOWNE gives a large children's party to-morrow at the Government House.

THE Chinese Amban arrived at Calcutta on Tuesday last and was received with due ceremony. He is residing at No. 4 Rawdon Street, which has been fitted up for his accommodation. Mr. Hart is with him. The Amban paid a visit to the Viceroy on Wednesday and the Viceroy returned the Amban's visit on Thursday, when the usual formalities were observed. This is the first time that a Chinese Ambassador has visited India, and naturally much is being made of him, having regard particularly to the necessity of cultivating the friendship of China in reference to the Thibet question. His Excellency is the guest of the Bengal Government during his stay, which is not expected to last for more than a week. The signing of the Thibet treaty is the object of the mission and takes place this morning. There have been a concert and a State dinner at the Government House in His Excellency's honor, and His Excellency has pronounced himself completely satisfied with the arrangements made for his reception, accommodation and pleasure.

MESSRS. RAMPINI, Hill and Gordon have, as known beforehand, been appointed to officiate for Justices Beverley, Trevelyan and Tottenham during their respective absence on furlough. Mr. Brett, the Registrar of the Appellate Side, has been granted furlough for seven months and a half.

CONTRARY to public expectation, Mr. Pugh and not Mr. Bonnerjee has been appointed to officiate as Standing Counsel during Mr. Phillips' absence on leave till the 27th November. The reason for this is not at all clear, unless we are to suppose that by once officiating in the post while Mr. Bonnerjee was away to England Mr. Pugh's claims secured priority. Mr. Bonnerjee officiated several times and gave great satisfaction to the Judges and the public, and Government had surely no reason to overlook his unquestionable claims. Of course a permanent native Standing Counsel, when Mr. Phillips comes to retire in the fulness of time may not be acceptable to many, and if the object be to nullify Mr. Bonnerjee's claims to permanency by shortening the number of his officiating periods, it will be admirably gained no doubt. But the justice and propriety of the course is not at all clear, and for the good name of Lord Lansdowne's Government it might have been hoped that the claims of a barrister of great eminence should not be so flagrantly disregarded for no better reason than that he happens to be a native. To Mr. Bonnerjee personally this slight may not be of the least concern, for he enjoys a practice and reputation that no Government favour can add to or detract from. But his countrymen will and do feel it very keenly.

THE foundation stone of the new laboratory of the Indian Association for cultivation of Science will be laid on Thursday the 27th instant, and the ceremony will be conducted by His Excellency the Viceroy. We congratulate Dr. Sirkar, the energetic Secretary of the Association, on the possibility of accomplishment, let us call it for the present, of another step towards its permanency and increased usefulness, and we can only repeat our hope that in the construction of the new building as well as in the endowment of some chairs our countrymen will yet come to Dr. Sirkar's aid.

WE have been requested to announce that Raja Pyari Mohun Mukerji C. S. I., has given a donation of Rs. 1,000 in aid of the Laboratory Building Fund of the Science Association.

IT has been definitely settled that the Marchioness of Lansdowne will lay the foundation-stone of Babu Sham Churn Law's Eye Hospital on Monday, the 24th instant. The site selected is the north-east corner of the Medical College Hospital compound.

IN compliance to an influentially signed requisition the Sheriff has convened a public meeting to consider the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act and to adopt a memorial praying for the amendment of the same. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall this afternoon at 4-30 P. M. and we have not the slightest doubt that the rate-payers whose grievances are complained of so loudly and so justly, will make it a point of according their earnest support to the movement and will attend the meeting to a man. The promoters of the meeting are to be congratulated on the prompt steps they have taken, particularly as the demonstration being held before the departure of the Government for the hills will afford it an opportunity of knowing directly how widespread the dissatisfaction is at the working of the Act. It, moreover, fittingly takes the shape of a farewell entertainment to the framer and originator of this iniquitous law at the close of his rather chequered Municipal career. The legacy of troubles and inconveniences left by him should have some form of recognition, and there could be none so pleasant as an universal demand for undoing the evil of which he was the author. We can only hope that the memorial will be sufficiently strong and comprehensive to meet the requirements of the case,

It is proposed, we understand, to appoint an influential committee for adopting such measures as may be necessary to carry out the objects of the Town Hall Meeting. The promoters of the movement have decided, we hear to appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy, if their prayer is not granted by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. If justice is denied to the oppressed rate-payers in this country, their ultimate course will be to go up to the Secretary of State, and to lay their grievances in a constitutional manner before representatives of the British public in Parliament assembled.

BABU JADULAL MALLIK'S plaint against the Municipal Corporation is, we hear, in course of preparation, and will be filed some time this week.

THE evening party given by the National Mahomedan Association at the Town Hall on Saturday night, in honor of Mr. Amir Ali on his elevation to the Bench of the High Court was a great success. Representatives of all sections of the community were present, and a very pleasant evening was passed.

THE third anniversary meeting of the Kumbuliya-tollah Boys' Reading Club was held, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. Scoble, on Saturday last. A very interesting paper was read by Archdeacon Michell on 'discipline and moral training.' The Chairman made an impressive speech, in the course of which he said that the lessons of morality are better taught at home than in schools. In the Chairman's opinion Archdeacon Michell's paper should be printed and widely circulated. We are glad that the Reading Club is making steady progress, and we are particularly pleased to hear that it has done good work among the viciously idle boys of the neighbourhood.

THE provisions of the Dramatic Performances Act, XIX of 1876, upon which no action has hitherto been taken by Government, will *now* be enforced. Mr. Lambert has been empowered, we understand, to call for such information from the managers of Theatres and others, as he may consider necessary for ascertaining the character of any intended public dramatic performance.

DR. MCLEOD has without any opposition been elected a Municipal Commissioner for Ward No. 16, in the place of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton who had resigned his place on the Commission. Mr. Cotton's resignation which took place about the time that the impossibility of his getting the Chairmanship became patent, carries a moral with it. One need not continue his services to his fellow rate-payers unless one has the prospective chairmanship in store. Dr. Mcleod's experiences of the Municipality as its former Health Officer and for a while as one of the Commissioners will be of great use.

PANDIT AYODHYANATH, the energetic Joint General Secretary of the Indian Congress, is in our midst to look after this year's preparations. He improved his stay by addressing a large gathering at the BaraBazar Dhurmsala on Tuesday last, when the objects of the movement were clearly and forcibly enunciated. It is always a gain to have these matters intelligently explained to our countrymen, and the pity is that there are not many enthusiastic workers of the Hon'ble Pandit's position or calibre. He will shortly visit Bankipur in connection with the Congress work.

A DISASTROUS fire broke out, on Monday, at the Bengal Hydraulic Press at Kasipur. It is owned by Babu Shubal Chunder Chunder, one of the largest native jute merchants and balers, and the loss is estimated at about 3 lacs of rupees. The fire continued long, though its destructive character was soon lost through the energies of the fire brigade.

THE sale of the Burdwan Raj jewels which commenced on Monday last lasted for the whole of the week. There were some lovely jewels, but the price commanded was by no means adequate. It is supposed that the deficiency is due to a combination among native dealers who had large orders from native Courts.

THE *Indian Daily News* and the *Pioneer* draw attention to one of the many exodus evils which requires grave consideration. By way of shining as a star in one's own account in the heavenly firmament, or to propitiate the gods by incense of entertainments and such like offerings, our native Princes are steadily and largely taking to the vicious habits of summering away from their capitals and leaving State business to take care of itself. A long list is published of Princes and Chiefs who have secured houses at Simla and whose number is every day on the increase. The administration of the State by some of them is bad enough, at least in the eyes of the Politicals, and if things drift from bad to worse, it is because of what little pressure the ruler's presence in the State is brought to bear upon the administration is lost for a goodly poriod of the year. This tendency to absenteeism should be discouraged in the interests of the Princes themselves, and it should be no palliation of the evil that the Political's family finds a convenient and comfortable place for residence for the season, if the doll of a prince under his care can be got to have his summer head-quarters at the seat of gaiety and pleasure. The whole thing has demoralising effects the extent of which is hard to estimate.

THE *Englishman* hears that there is every probability of the Railway Bill being passed, before the Government of India leaves for Simla. There are equal probabilities, we may add, of public representation on the subject being completely disregarded.

BABU Surendranath Banerjee starts for England to-morrow in connection with the Congress work. His friends will entertain him at a dinner to-night at one of the fashionable hotels.

THE Sialkote-Jammu Railway extension was opened to public traffic on Thursday with much rejoicing. About 800 passengers arrived by the first train from Jammu. Now that the dominions of the Maharaja are placed in direct touch with the outer world, let us trust that much of the misconception regarding his rule will be dispelled. The line will be of great use no doubt in extending the commerce of the State and will afford facilities to travellers anxious to catch a glimpse of the 'Happy valley', though the name alone is all that is left to it now.

REUTER telegraphs that the India Councils Bill has passed through Committee. Lord Cross said that Government consented to reinsert the clause enabling the Provincial Councils to legislate on local matters, and he thought that the extension would be of great advantage to India. His Lordship said that negotiations were proceeding with the Viceroy with a view to further decentralisation. Lord Herschell gave notice of a motion that a new clause be inserted enabling the local Councils, with the approval of the Viceroy, to amend the laws prior to the subsequent passing of the Act and to this Lord Cross consents. The Radicals in the Commons will earnestly endeavour to introduce the elective principle in the India Councils Bill, and will be supported by several leaders of the Opposition. This at all events is somewhat reassuring, and we trust Mr. Bradlaugh's endeavour will be crowned with success. This is an opportunity not likely to recur for some time, and every nerve should be strained to improve upon it as far as possible. The petitions to Parliament which are being largely signed in different parts of the country should be sent in as early as possible, and the Congress delegates should do all they can to help in the good work inaugurated by our English friends. We are now passing through a veritable crisis, and all should be wide awake to the supreme importance of the occasion.

THE highly successful Terai sports over Prince Albert Victor has gone on to Baroda where fresh festivities and sports awaited His Royal Highnes. The usual routine of State banquets, illumination, fire works, wild boast shows, to the reports which the public mind in India has been accustomed during the last few months were scruplously followed, and altogether the Prince had a most enjoyable time of it in one of our first Native States.

THE Bombay preparations for the reception and entertainment of Prince Albert Victor of Wales are now approaching completion. The municipality alone has subscribed the handsome amount of Rs. 30,000 to which the Government has added Rs. 10,000, leaving it to the citizens to find the rest of the cost of the reception and the entertainment. Here at Calcutta neither the Government nor the Municipality lent a helping hand, the whole of the burden having had to be borne by loyal citizens. They have not grudged it however, and are glad to have set a wholesome example.

THE good people of Bombay feted the Duke and Duchess of Cannaught on the eve of their departure for England in right royal style. At a masonic conversazione, His Royal Highness touchingly observed that he had always felt it a great privilege to be enabled in any way, however small, to help in welding the different elements constituting the Indian Commonwealth together in loyalty to the Queen-Empress. His Royal Highness, however, marred the joviality of the Yacht Club very considerably by ruffling the composure of our western brethren as to the security of their lives and properties. His Royal Highness, referring to the defences of Bombay, said that the recent operations were most successful, and in every way satisfactory. They proved exactly what he expected—that the defences were with their present armament absolutely useless, and could not oppose any resistance to a naval attack on a larger scale than that which was possible with such naval materials as were available in the absence of Admiral Freemantle's fleet in the Zanzibar waters. Had the Admiral been in a position to deal with the defences he would have been completely victorious in an hour, while the defences of themselves were without the guns which would render them formidable. The naval element of the defence was quite useless, because the ships were without crews, and had neither gunners nor firemen to enable them to supply the deficiencies of the armament of the land defences. We ditchers congratulated ourselves on

a better state of things, for was it not only the other day demonstrated most conclusively that we can hold our own against any amount of odds no matter whether by land or water? These trifles will no doubt be looked to by the proper authorities in time, but what we all devoutly pray for in Bombay and Calcutta is that His Royal Highness' interest in Indian affairs in all their departments should continue unabated. It is a proud privilege to Her Majesty's Indian subjects that one of her sons should have so long been in their midst and personally devising means for their safety and security, and in bidding His Royal Highness a regretful good-bye they are filled with feelings of gratefulness to the throne.

THE Duke and Duchess of Cannaught left the Indian shores on Thursday last for good amidst demonstrations of loyalty the origin of which was as much good-will to the throne with which they are so intimately connected as the many excellent qualities by which they endeared themselves to the people of India during their somewhat protracted stay in their midst. We heartily wish them a most prosperous voyage, and hope that amidst the kindly associations at home the interests of Her Majesty's Indian subjects will continue to occupy some portion of their Royal Highnesses' attention. That scions of the Royal family should be associated with the administration of India in any department for any length of time is a proud privilege for which we are deeply indebted to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, and our regret is that the experiment which has been so singularly and happily successful has no immediate chance of repetition.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has declared the following gentlemen to be eligible for appointment as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors during the current year:—

Babu Ram Nath Chatterjee, M. A., Moulvie Mahomed Abbas Ali, M. A., Babu Bisseswar Bhattacharjee, Babu Benode Behary Sircar, late Special Deputy Collector, Babu Gobind Chunder Das, M. A., Moulvie Sheik Abdulla, Special Deputy Collector, Babu Promotha Nath Dutt, B. A., Moulvie Syed Ali Hossein, B. A., Babu Brojo Durlab Hazara, B. A., Babu Nobin Chunder Ker, B. A., Babu Prosanno Kumar Das Gupta, B. A., and Babu Jogendro Nath Sen, Special Deputy Collector.

Six of these gentlemen obtained the first six places in the competitive examination; three have been nominated from among registered candidates who have obtained not less than one-third marks in the examination; and three are Special Deputy Collectors, who have been selected for promotion. Those among the selected candidates who are not already in Government service will be posted to the head-quarters of various districts as probationers on a subsistence allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem, and will be employed on general work of such a kind as may be allotted to them by the District Magistrate. They will be appointed to fill vacancies in the Subordinate Executive Service as they occur, according to the position they hold in the above list. The following gentlemen, who are on the list of registered candidates and who have obtained upwards of one-third marks in the examination, are declared eligible for appointment to the post of Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, should any vacancies occur during the year after the appointment of the twelve gentlemen above mentioned:—

Babu Banku Behari Sing, M. A., B. L., and Babu Rakhal Chunder Banerjee, B. A.

ALTHOUGH final orders in the Durbhangah Temple case are, we understand, still under consideration by the Lieutenant-Governor at Ranchi, the essential facts of the decision have become public in Durbhangah. "The chief of these are that Mr. Beadon has been transferred to another appointment, and that Mr. Mahomed Khan, Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, has resigned. It is stated that Government lays no claim to the site on which the demolished temple was built, and that the Municipal Commissioners will be required to sanction the construction of a new temple if application be made to them according to law."

THE Bombay Municipality has opened a special hospital for smallpox cases, as this disease as well as influenza is prevalent and fatal in the outlying districts especially. Influenza, it seems, has had a serious effect upon the death rate, particularly at Parel and Byculla. About 15,000 cases are reported from Poona. The novel epidemic has shown itself in Lucknow, and has broken out in the regiments stationed there with great severity. Though few cases end fatally, the suffering of its victims is great, and it is of an infectious character. It is supposed to be quite independent of the weather and alike breaks out in chill and heat.

THINGS are managed in a way in the Municipality of Calcutta that seems to be anything but creditable. The Budget Committee is required to pass a sum, say two lacs and a-half for repairs of roads during the current year. Nothing is more reasonable, for it is no extravagance for a large town like Calcutta to have that sum annually spent on the improvement of its roads, and it would be better far no doubt if a larger sum could be spent. But how is this limited amount distributed? Why, of course, the Theatre Road, the Park Street, the Chowringee Road and a few more like them that could well do without any repairs for a good five years, get the lion's share while those that require repairs most in the back slums of the black Town are entirely neglected for want of funds And when any objection is raised by any isolated Commissioner, he is requested to name the street or lane in his neighbourhood that requires repair in view of its being put on the favoured list by way of "sop." This seems to be the guiding principle of action. In regard to the house assessment question a distinct hint has been thrown out that to do away with the unpleasant agitation that threatens to be brought to a head this evening, the authorities would not mind propitiating the more prominent of the malcontents if that could be managed without violating the law of Sir Henry's creation. But the agitation know better and will have none of it, and a great chess-player as he is Sir Henry is rather uncomfortably check-mated. In connection with the street repair question his favourite schemes are likely to be baffled, for the Budget sanction is contingent upon the condition that each street requiring repairs must in the first instance receive separate sanction of the General Committee.

WE learn with sincere regret that red-tapism prevails so far in the counsels of the medical department of the Government of India as to make Dr. Harvey's transfer to Peshwar on Militaty duties almost a certainty. Dr. Charles' mantle had most worthily fallen on Dr. Harvey, and great is his skill and fame as an obstetric physician. As professor of midwifery in the Medical College, as Superintendent of the Eden Hospital and as a practitioner Dr. Harvey enjoys the most unbounded confidence and esteem of those requiring his services, and his removal would be a calamity to the inhabitants of Calcutta. Dr. Harvey is no judicial or executive officer that his prolonged stay at any particular locality may impair administrative efficiency, and if military rules require constant rolling of the stone, Colonel Hopkins may be left to enjoy the undivided attention of the authorities for a while. Calcutta has narrowly escaped a similar calamity in the shape of Dr. Sander's transfer from the Presidency, and we have no doubt that Government will not remove Dr. Harvey when the public estimate of his worth and services is fully made known to it. The *Englishman* is informed that it is not true that Dr. Harvey is going to regimental duty. He has to take this post as he wants promotion to the higher ranks of the service, as Deputy Surgeon-General, and Government now will not allow an officer to refuse promotion. It is understood that Dr. Joubert will succeed Dr. Harvey as Professor at the Medical College. Dr. Joubert returns to Calcutta in June, and Dr. Birch, who is coming out to succeed Dr. Coates as Principal of the Medical College, will probably officiate till then in charge of the Eden Hospital.

ALTHOUGH the Lascar crew on board all sea-going ships and steamers afford invaluable services and are cheap withal, it is inexplicable that no opportunity should be lost in certain quarters to show them up if possible. Such an unworthy attempt was made by some people in connection with the recent lamentable wreck of the *Quetta*, and it was pretended that much of the confusion and danger of the occasion was due to the disorderly conduct and want of discipline of the lascars on board, and that these cowardly ruffians wanted to save their lives in utter disregard of the lives of those who had a claim to the first consideration, namely ladies and children. The charge was a serious one, the credit of the class was at stake. From fuller accounts of the unfortunate wreck, however, it seems that "only the Javanese deck passengers rushed to the boats and that *the lascar crew behaved admirably.*" We are quoting from Reuter's telegram and the italics are no mere outcome of our patriotic imagination. We are glad that the character of almost the only sea-going community of India is thus saved, for if the conduct of the *Quetta* crew approached anything like what was attributed to them at first, their brethren on board other vessels would have been served right by prompt dismissal. This is not the first time that the lascar crew has been baselessly impeached, for cries of a similar character were raised not long ago in connection with an accident to a P. and O. steamer in the Mediterranian. The cavillers of lascars who resent their economic replacement of European sailors should be silent after repeated proof of their usefulness and courage under the most trying circumstances.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,

THE Mahomedan population of Bengal, twenty-five millions strong, have at last pronounced its fateful opinion against the National Congress The *Mahomedan Observer* in the most pronounced manner disavows "on the part of our community, who represent one-third of the population of Bengal, any connection whatever with the Congress movement." This is interesting, to be sure. The Mahomedans of Bengal, consisting of the ethnical representatives of all the races of Central and Western Asia, the Indo-Burman Mugs and the converted indigenous population are happy in their joint possession of a representative who is good enough to say: "We feel our responsibility, we owe a duty to the community we represent; namely, the aforesaid one-third of the population of the Bengal." Most supporters of the Congress will feel a signal service has been done to their cause by this grave pronouncement. Representation of the people in the Government of the country is not entirely a delusive hope, the Congress has not been Ixion-like embracing a cloud. If the *Mahomedan Observer* can between breakfast and lunch qualify itself for the representation of the opinions and sentiments of twenty-five millions of Bengal Mahomedans not possessed of even a common *lingua franca*, then there is but little hope of salvation left to the Congress yet. But let us inquire a little more closely into your co temporary's method of gauging the feelings of those whose representative it claims to be. Light is let in on this point by a very characterstic sentence:—"Not only are the leading members of the Mahomedan society opposed to it (the Congress) but their influence carries so much weight with their less opulent co-religionists that they also stand aloof." The implication is that Bengal Mahomedans are open only to the influence of wealth and religious sympathy. We have yet to learn that the binding power of the profession of a common faith is greater among the Mahomedans of Bengal than it is among the Hindus and we can form some idea of the strength of the latter. Then as regarding the influence of wealth we are unable to understand through what channels the opulent Mahomedan leaders pour out their influence upon the Mahomedan ryots of Hindu zemindars. If the Congress with its network of clubs and Associations is no

a trustworthy metre of public feeling and opinion in this country how can the Mahomedan leaders, unless gifted with the mysterious powers of transmitting *khubbur* vulgarly attributed to a portion of their community during the dark days of the Mutiny have succeeded in involving a homogeneous mass out of elements more discordant than is the Turk to the Gentile? We, who believe in the wisdom of the Latin proverb that it is lawful to learn even from an enemy, are willing to sit at the feet of the opulent Mahomedan leaders and solicit instruction in their wonderous art.

Now, to consider the good grounds, "not sentimental," upon which Bengal Mahomedan opulence bases its opposition to the Congress movement. The sole representative in the Press of the one third of the population of Bengal says, "It aims at the impossible." For further instructions the profane public would ask what is 'the impossible' which the Congress in its fatuity aims at? It can hardly be the capacity of any individuals to represent the people. For have not one-third of the population of Bengal found their representative in the conductors of the *Mahomedan Observer*? "The day is yet far distant, says your contemporary, "when the elective system of Government can be safely introduced and worked in this country." Perhaps so. But has the Congress demanded it? Its aspirations are more humble. It seeks merely the introduction of an elective element in the government of this country; as no one, least of all, the representative of one-third of the population of Bengal has any excuse for not knowing. If the reform upon which the Congress has set its heart remains "visionary", that movement is at all events entitled to some consideration from your contemporary whom it has afforded the opportunity of being the representative of one-third of the population of Bengal and has secured for it the support of the *Englishman*, which reprints the article under notice as a "well argued" one. Of the latter it may perhaps be said that intellectual poverty coupled with the charge of a bad cause, like other forms of misfortune, has led to the acquaintance of strange associates.

ITHURIEL'S SPEAR.

Extracts

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, INDIA.

IN the House of Commons on February 14, Sir R. Lethbridge asked the Under-Secretary of State for India, with reference to a despatch from the Government of India, dated March 28, 1870, which was understood to contain a passage to the following effect:—"We shall be glad to see some plan adopted by which the furlough allowances of civil engineers shall be equalised with those of military officers in the Public Works Department, and, so far as practicable, their advantages of pension also," whether any and what steps have been taken to carry out this recommendation. Sir J. Gorst: The passage quoted is a correct extract from the despatch, which is to be found in Parliamentary paper No 115 of 1871, with other papers. The steps taken to carry out the recommendation, so far as has been found practicable, are stated in correspondence published in Parliamentary paper No 439 of 1888.

INDIAN GRIEVANCES.

Mr. Bradlaugh asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention had been drawn to a petition signed by Sir W. Wedderburn, as President of the Indian National Congress, recently held in Bombay, asking for the restoration of the right of raising matter of grievance with Mr. Speaker in the chair, prior to the annual Budget statement; and whether the Government would consent to a Resolution in the terms of the petition or in those of the petition or in those of the motion of the hon. members for North Kensington. Mr. W. H. Smith:—My attention has been drawn to the petition from the Indian National Congress and also to the Resolution founded on its standing in the name of my hon. friend the member for North Kensington; but the Government are not prepared to make the alteration in the rules of the House as suggested, as they are of opinion that it is of greater advantage to the interests of India that the time at which the Indian Budget should be considered should be fixed than that motions should be raised on the motion for going into committee. A Bill will be introduced in the course of the present session, which will give hon. members an opportunity for the discussion of Indian grievances. In reply to the further question from Mr. Bradlaugh, Mr. W. H. Smith said: I hope it will be in our power to introduce the Bill at an early period in the session.

THE LOCAL COUNCILS IN INDIA.

Sir J. Gorst, in answer to Sir W. Plowden and Mr. Bradlaugh, said that the India Office had received copies of communications with the Government of India and the Local Governments with reference to the constitution of the Local Councils; but as the communications were of a confidential character, it was not proposed to lay them on the table. The reports were not forwarded through Lord Dufferin.

CASHMERE.

Mr. Bradlaugh asked the Under Secretary of State for India whether the Government would, at an early date, present to the House the papers relating to the action of the Government of India towards Cashmere since His Highness Pratab Singh became Maharajah; and whether, if the Maharajah of Cashmere, in the words used by the Secretary of State on August 27 last, "sees it advisable to resume control of his State, and to govern it in way which will be a benefit to his subjects and to neighbouring countries as well, the Government of India would facilitate his doing so. Sir J. Gorst: The Government are anxious to give full information to the House of Commons respecting the affairs of Cashmere, and papers recently received will be laid on the table. The statement of the Secretary of State, quoted by the hon. member, was contingent on the existing state of things in Cashmere being first remedied. The Government are anxious to show every consideration to the rights of the Maharajah consistent with a due regard to the still more sacred rights of the people of Cashmere. (Cheers, ironical Opposition, laughter from below the gangway.)

OIL WELLS IN BURMAH.

Mr. Bradlaugh asked the Under-Secretary for India whether a concession had been granted of certain oil-bearing country, in Burmah, and to what extent; and if so, whether the Secretary of State would state the circumstances and conditions under which, and to whom, the concessions had been made. Sir J Gorst replied that a concession of oil-bearing country, extending over more than a square mile, had been granted by the authorities of India for twelve years to Messrs. Findlay and Fleming, of Rangoon. Rules by which concessions in oil fields might be obtained had been issued, and many applications had been received. The Secretary of State would ask for a return, and give to the House such information as applied for in the hon. gentleman's question.

THE ADVANTAGES OF LIVING IN THE PRESENT CENTURY.

[*Saturday Review.*]

Some of the advantages of living now-a-days are obvious enough. People are fond of dwelling on the past, when England was merry and 'every rood of ground maintained its man;' or possibly they look back with some faint desire to the time when the noble savage ran wild in the woods and Prince Voltigern wore a painted vest "which from a naked Pict his grandsire won" There may have been much that was romantic in earlier ages, but there was much that was uncomfortable. The simple plan, so admirably carried out in the Dark Ages, that he should take who had the power and he should keep who can, was agreeable enough to the man who took, but to keep what has been taken demanded wakeful nights and toilsome days.

As civilisation advanced, pious people burnt each other, no doubt from the most amiable motives; and if a man happened to think for himself his life was threatened, at one time by the Protestant and at another time by the Roman Catholic. Would you like to have lived in an age when clergymen were imprisoned for using the Prayer Book, and Irish women had their noses chopped off because they were Roman Catholics? Or in an age when scores of women were burnt for witchcraft; when fever, small-pox, and the plague decimated the population, hundreds of people were hanged every year for the most trivial thefts? I say, no. Doubtless the present age has its drawbacks. It is somewhat of a lawless age, and what our masters may do in the future it is impossible to say; but at present some respect is awarded to intellect and even to birth, though perhaps more homage is paid to wealth than to either. The nineteenth century has many faults; but in the main I prefer it to its predecessors.

For comforts and conveniences, from the penny post to railways, telegrams, and handsome cabs, the present age has much to be said in its favour. If we are ill, too, many are the remedies against pain of which our forefathers knew nothing; and a surgical operation can be performed unknown to the patient. We come into the world with less trouble, and go out of it with less suffering. In society there is not so much stiffness and formality; in solitude there are infinitely better resources. And the interest of life is greater since the range of topics affecting us is immensely extended. If you doubt this you have but to refer to some old-fashioned Encyclopoedia. One of the chief pleasures of modern life is the capacity for travel. Money and leisure are still needed, but we can see more in a month than our fathers could in three, and spend less in three months than they spent in one. If, on the other hand, we prefer staying at home, what with politics, literature, science, volunteer-drill, lawn-tennis, and church bazaars, there is a fullness of occupation unknown to our great-great grandfathers. The other day an old lady regretted she should not live long enough to know what would become of Ireland and Home Rule; and women, who once lived only to work samplers, make pictures in worsted work, flirt, marry, and nurse their babies, now talking politics, playing at cricket in the business-like style of their brothers, and rivalling them at the same time in University studies. A father may have a daughter who takes her degree, and knows more of the Greek drama than he does. Nay, more he may be blest with one who proclaims the rights of women upon platforms—a privilege undreamt of in former years! Think, too, of the many opportunities there are of displaying our benevolence. The charity of the age is not like the faint glimmer of a candle, but shines with the blaze of gas. No longer can it be said that we "do good by stealth and blush to find it fame." Moreover, if we have a thirst for notoriety, it is always possible to do something which will bring the Interviewer to our door. A little aggressiveness, some pluck and some ambition may even secure to us a paragraph in a society paper.

Then, we know more of Nature, and can dissect objects which in former years we could only ignorantly enjoy. Campbell said that the spirits of our fathers would start from every wave, but that was a poetical expression: in these days, if we may believe the Spiritualists, they can be raised in every drawing-room; and at the Congress lately held in Paris a delegate from New York affirmed that he was "the representative of twelve million spirits"—a heavy responsibility, truly, and an honour peculiar to our age; but how the American Spiritualist became acquainted with the number of his constituents he omitted to relate. In former years, too, a man bent upon improving his mind had to do it under difficulties. Books were expensive, teachers were few, and learning was confined within a contracted circle. Now we have but to choose our studies, and text books, lecturers, and "coaches" are at hand to carry us over the ground smoothly. We can conquer with but little fighting, and win laurels without the physical and mental struggles with which in olden days a student was familiar. The road to knowledge is well paved, and the sole discomfort is that it is overcrowded with people who travel upon it, not from the pure love of learning, but in order to gain a position in life.

It must be owned that there are some aspects of the present age which it is far from pleasant to contemplate. For nineteen centuries has peace on earth and good will to men been proclaimed, and yet, despite all the wisdom and piety of a period that professes to have a larger sympathy for human suffering than was known in a less civilised age, the nations of Europe are armed against each other as they have never been armed before, and some millions of men are being daily drilled for a conflict that is said to be inevitable. England, thanks to her strip of silver sea, and to a navy which, like a good watch dog, protects the house by its bark, and has no wish to bite, may not be drawn

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233. *Sole Agent.*

into the conflict; but it is not cheering to think of contingencies that may arise to trouble us under the rotten condition of European society.

Every age, however, has had its special difficulties to contend with, and if we have our full share we have also strength enough to meet them. The living age is one of hope, and therefore of splendid possibilities. This is another reason for liking it better than its predecessors.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY AND EMACIATION.—In cases of Debility and Emaciation, the powerful curative influence of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is graphically described by Sir Henry Marsh, Bart, M. D., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, who, after extensive use, strongly recommended this preparation, and observed:—"I have frequently prescribed Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil. I consider it to be a very pure Oil, not likely to create disgust and a therapeutic agent of great value." This eminent Physician remarks:—"With strumous and emaciated subjects, and where the general health is impaired, this remedy tells with peculiar efficacy. The reviving and remaining effects of a regular daily course of this animal Oil are highly satisfactory. Its favourable action on the system is renovating; it checks progressive emaciation, restores the yielding health, rebuilds, as it were, the tottering frame, and brings about a most remarkable and salutary change in all the vital functions." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

A CARD.—AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a Missionary in old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and an early grave. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury Square, London, W. C., will send the prescription, free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper. 10.

Government Notification.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 12, 1889.

GENERAL,—Mr R W Carlyle, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong.

Mr P C Lyon, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, is appointed to act as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr R W Carlyle, or until further orders.

Mr W H H Vincent, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to act temporarily as Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore and Judge of the Small Cause Court in that Cantonment, with effect from the 30th August 1889.

Mr Vincent is also appointed temporarily to have charge of the Dinapore sub-division of the Patna district, with effect from the 30th August 1889.

Baboo Poorno Chunder Bysack, Temporarily Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Culna, Burdwan, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Kedar Nath Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Culna sub-division of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Poorno Chunder Bysack, or until further orders.

Baboo Shama Churn Dutt, Sub-Deputy Collector, Contai, Midnapore, is allowed leave for one and a half months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 12th December 1889.

Mr F C Barnes, Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, Calcutta, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for six months on medical certificate.

Advertisements.

LAW BOOKS

COMPLIED BY

NRISINHA RAM MUKERJI

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1882, with short notes, as amended up to date. Price Rs. 1-4.

ACTS VI & VII OF 1889. *Price Annas* 4.

S. K. LAHIRI & CO.,

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CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

FORM E.

ASSESSOR'S DERARTMENT.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 132 OF ACT II. (B. C.) OF 1888.

NOTICE is hereby given that the valuation of the District of Calcutta noted in the margin, has been completed and that the books containing the said valuations can be inspected on any day (Sundays and holidays excepted) at the Office of the Commissioners, No. 4 Municipal Office Street, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

Ward No. 24.—Bounded on the north by Komedan Bagan Road and Circular Garden Reach Road; South by Gurra Gatcha Road and Taratolla Road; East by Diamond Harbour Road; West by Sonai 3rd Lane. Sonai Road and the new road made by the Port Commissioners in place of Sonai 4th Lane.

Any person, desiring to object to the said valuations must, within fifteen days from this date, deliver at the Office of the Commissioners a notice in writing, stating the grounds of his objection.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman will proceed to hear the objections under Cluse *a* of Section 136.

JOHN COWIE,
Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE, 14*th March* 1890. 265

To

H B. H. TURNER ESQ.,

SHERIFF OF CALCUTTA.

SIR.

We, the undersigned Rate-payers of the Town of Calcutta, request you to call a public Meeting to be held at the Town Hall, at 4-30 P.M., on Monday, the 17th instant, to consider the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, and to adopt a Memorial praying for the amendment of the same.

We have the honor to be,
SIR
Your most obedient servants,

Jotendro Mohun Tagore.
Narendra Krishna.
Sourindro Mohun Tagore.
Durga Churn Law.
Rajendralala Mitra.
Rajendra Narain Deb.
Bepin Behary Mitra.
Mahesh Chunder Nyayaratna.
Buddridass.
Sham Churn Law.
Jadu Lall Mullick.
Obhoy Churn Guho.
Tara Churn Guho.
Issur Chunder Mitra.
Grinder Chunder Ghose.
Lall Madhub Mukerji.
Netye Dass Mullick.
Gobin Lall Mullick.
Debendro Mullick.
Nundo Lall Bose.
Roma Nath Ghose.
Kassy Lall Dey.
Sitanath Roy.
Kallykristo Pramanick.
Jebun Kissen Ghose.
Buddon Chunder Sett.
Radha Churn Ghose.
Rakhal Chunder Tewary.
Troylockya Nath Ghose.
R. Mittra.
Saroda Cunder Mitter.
Kumud Kissen Mitter, 19, Nilmony Mittor's Street.
Bejoy Krishna Dutt, 78, Nimtollah Ghat Street.
Prosad Dass Mullick.
Guru Prosono C. Dey.
Nundo Lall Mullick, No. 26.1. Prosuno Kamar Tagore's Street.
Radha Prosad Roy, 25, Darmahatta Street.
Shewbux Bogla.
Soorajmull Jhoon Jhoon-wallah.
Kally Nath Mitter.
Promotho Nath Mitter.
Nilmoney Mitter.
Kali Prosonno Ghosh.
Calcutta, March 8, 1890.

In compliance with the foregoing requisition. I do here by convene a Public Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Calcutta to be held at the Town Hall, at 4-30 P. M, on Monday, the 17th instant.

(Sd) H. B. H. TURNER,
Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, Calcutta, March 11, 1890. 267

DRAFTSMAN, SURVEYOR ESTIMATOR.

Required for the District Engineer's, Office Bhagulpore, a neat and skilful draftsman, who must also be a qualified compass and chain surveyor and leveller; able as an estimator to take out and check quantities from drawings of all kinds and to examine estimates. Applications should be accompanied by specification of acquirements, specimen of hand drawing or training, and copies of certificates. Salary commencing at Rs. 50 per month rising to 60 in 5 years by annual increments. The selected candidate will be appointed at first on probation. Applications to be made before the 30th March, 1890 and to be addressed to

District Engineer's Office, Bhagulpore 14 March, 90. } The District Engineer Bhagulpore.
269

WATERBURY WATCHES.

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"E"	Long-wind	Rs. 7 8 0
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"L"	Ladies, or wristlet watch enamelled dial, jewelled.	Rs. 13 0 0

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Soundy and Co. Bombay.
Anderson and Co. Madras.

At all Railway Book-stalls; or from the Company's Offices in India.

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HAVE CURED THOUSANDS OF ENLARGED SPLEENS.

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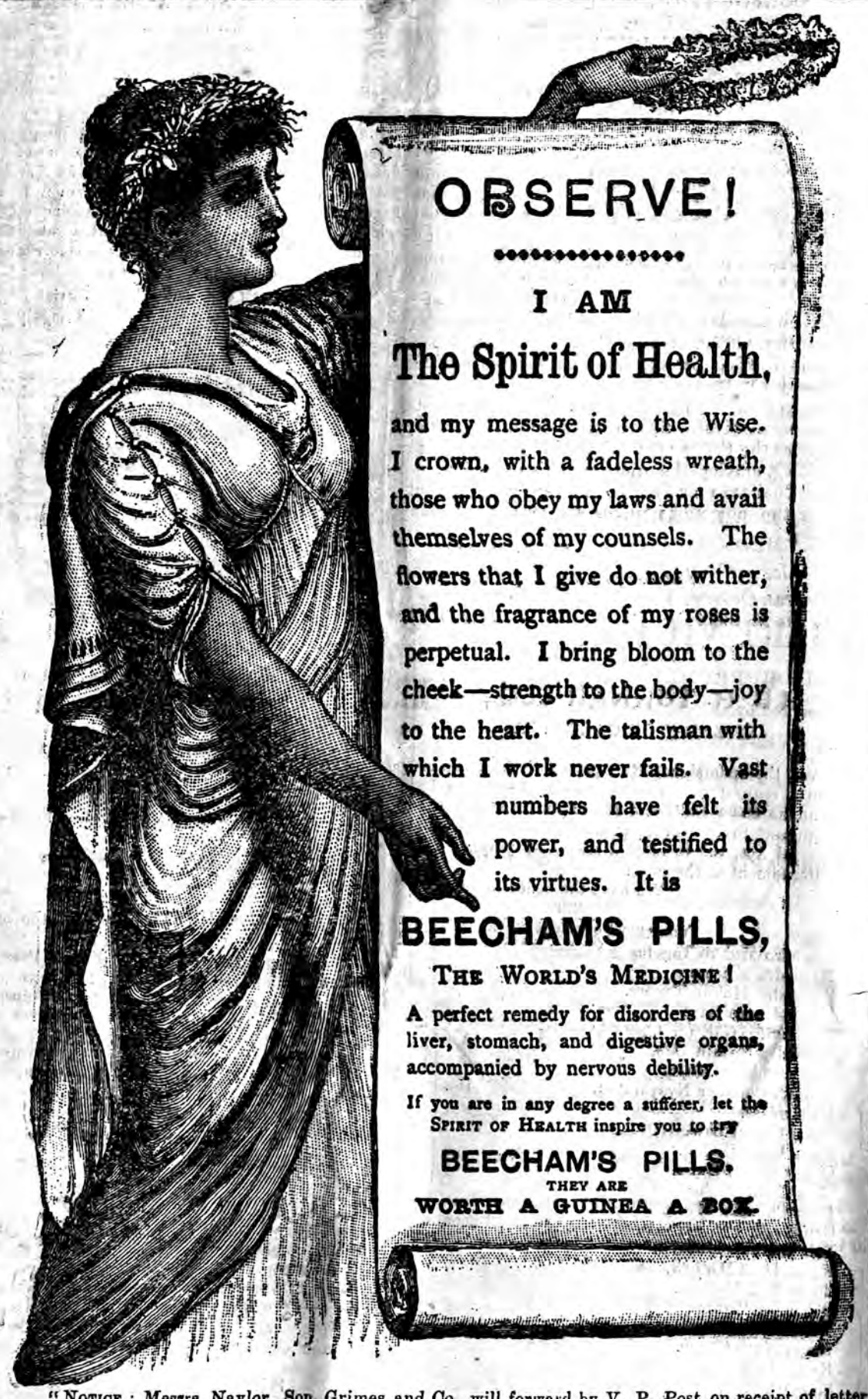
From MR. E. KIDBY, Dinapore.—"I have always had in mind your wonderful cure of my daughter's illness of the Spleen—She was, as is well known by many given up as incurable—her complaint being chronic:—When you took her in hand I really had no hopes that she would ever have recovered:—I write this thanking you for restoring her,—I have great confidence in your Spleen Pills and the Essence of Chiretta which I recommend to all as a specific for the diseases for which they are given. You have my permission to give publicity to the above for the good of the public.

Mr. Apothecary W. J. Montgomery, Madras Medl. Estabt. writes,—"You are at liberty to publish the following few lines which bear Testimony to the efficacy of your Spleen Pills in the "Pioneer" if you think fit. "I have used Dr. Lazarus's Spleen Pills in several cases of enlarged Spleen, &c., in all of them the cure was decidedly rapid, though the dose recommended has been found by me too strong for some. I have used nothing equal to it, and would strongly recommend those suffering from the above complaint never to be without taking a course of these pills, and I am quite certain, that these pills will effect a cure when other remedies have failed. Jalna, Deccan, 24-8-82.

From J. T. Murray, Esquire, Engineer, I. V. S. R. Flotilla, Sukkur, 11-10-83.—"The vial of Dr. Lazarus's Spleen Pills I purchased of you last month I am happy to say has made a thorough cure of my daughter's (3 years of age) enlarged Spleen. I have no objection to your making this known to the public.

72a



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THE WORLD'S MEDICINE!

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"Chemists and Store-keepers can obtain the wholesale rates on application."

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ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL.

Used for 100 years. Prevents and arrests baldness, strengthens the Hair and produces a luxuriant and glossy growth; also prepared in a Golden Colour.

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A pure non-gritty Tooth Powder. It whitens the Teeth, prevents decay, gives fragrance to the breath.

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A harmless emollient milk for beautifying the complexion. Removes Freckles, Tan, Sunburn, Roughness and Redness, pand produces soft fair and delicate Skin.

ROWLAND'S ESSENCE OF TYRE dyes Red or Grey Hair a permanent Brown or Black. Ask Chemists and Perfumers for ROWLANDS Articles, of 20, Hatton Garden, England, and avoid imitations.

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A manager having experience and well up to accounts, is desirous of taking charge of a Zemindari or other concern, especially where there is order to be restored. Unexceptional reference. For further particulars apply to S. care of the Manager.

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The PUBLIC are CAUTIONED that packages of the genuine powder bear the autograph of THOMAS KEATING. Sold in Tins and Bottles only.

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A PURELY VEGETABLE SWEETMEAT, both in appearance and taste, furnishing a most agreeable method of administering the only certain remedy for INTESTINAL or THREAD WORMS. It is a perfectly safe and mild preparation, and is especially adapted for Children. Sold in Bottles, by all Druggists.

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BILIOUS & LIVER COMPLAINTS,

and every disorder depending on either functional derangement of the Liver, or obstruction of the hepatic or biliary, ducts, such as JAUNDICE, INDIGESTION, HEARTBURN, DYSPEPSIA, PAIN IN THE RIGHT SIDE AND SHOULDER HABITUAL CONSTIPATION, some forms of DIARRHŒA. OFFENSIVE BREATH BLOTCHES ON THE SKIN, OPPRESSION AFTER MEALS, DEPRESSION OF SPIRITS, NERVOUS AND GENERAL DEBILITY RESTLESSNESS WASTING &c., &c., have their appropriate remedy in

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That it has a really beneficial influence on the LIVER, has been proved beyond all doubt by the numberless cases in which it has been tried since the year 1850.

It has saved thousands of valuable lives, and has enabled very many thousands more to continue their residence in India in the enjoyment of perfect health and comfort.

In cases of General debility, especially that form of weakness bodily and mental, arising from a prolonged residence in a warm climate, it has proved itself of the utmost value. In convalescence from long standing Malarious and other Fevers, affections of the Spleen, Worms and loss of appetite, its benefits have been most signal.

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THE half-yearly Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company, will be held at its Registered Office, No. 5, Bentinck Street, on Wednesday the 19th instant, at 3-30 P. M., to receive the Report of the Directors, pass the Accounts for the half-year ended 31st December 1889, declare a dividend and elect Office Bearers for the current year.

The Transfer Register will remain closed from the 12th to the 19th instant, both days inclusive.

CALCUTTA; 12th March 1890. } M. RUSTOMJEE, *Managing Director.*
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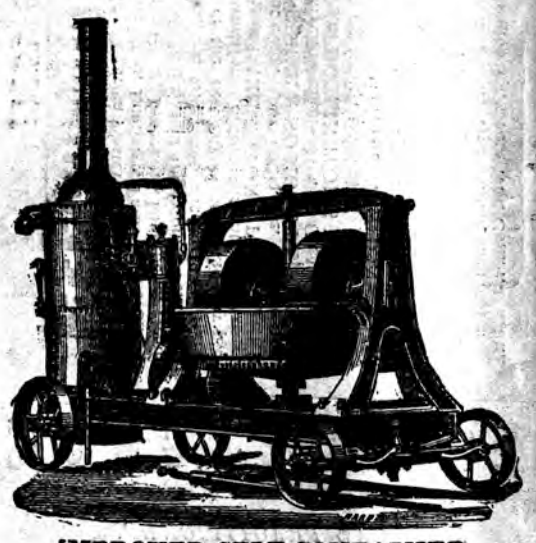

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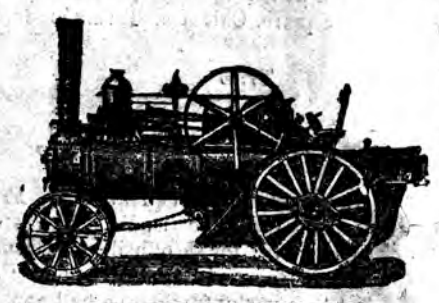

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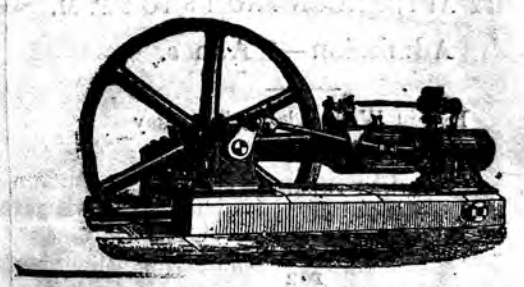

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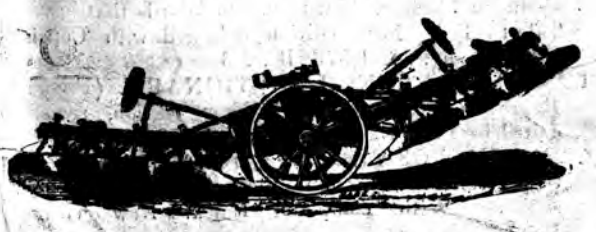

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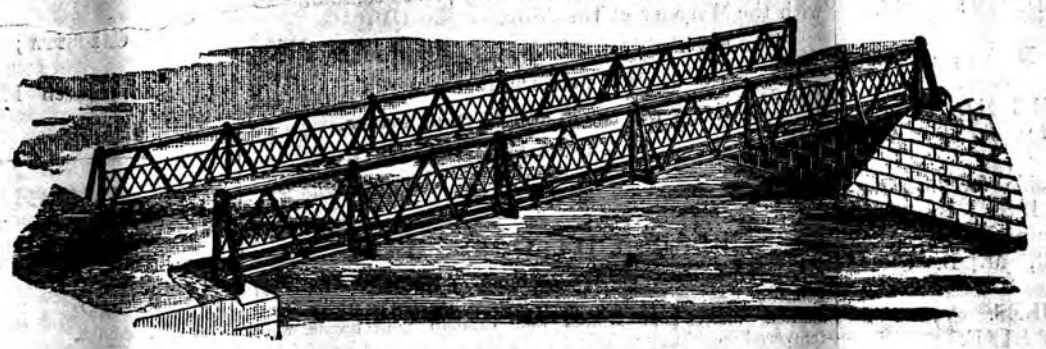

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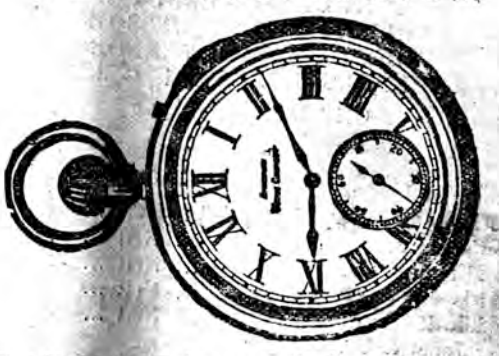

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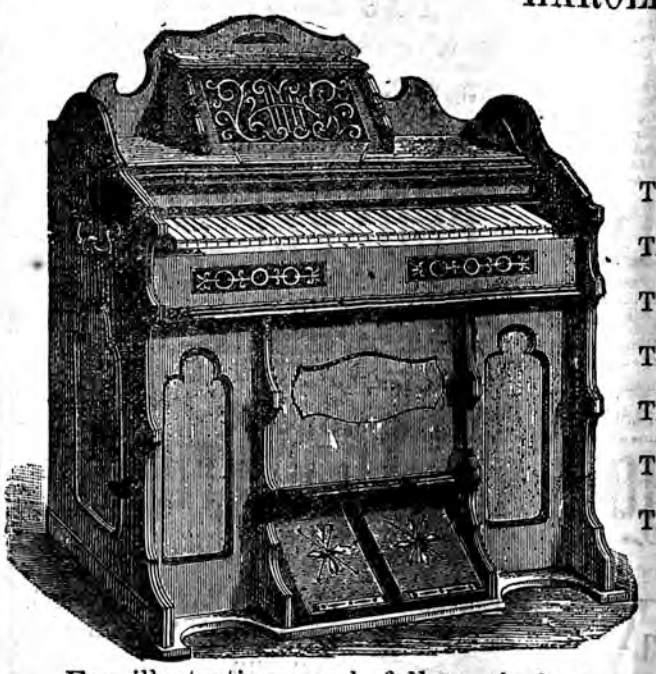

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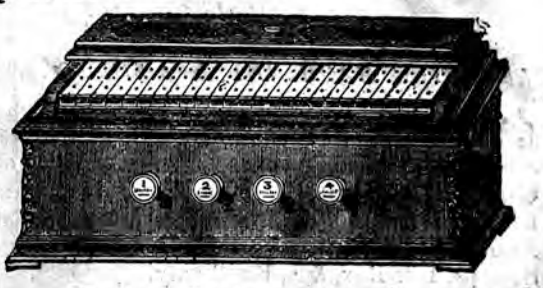

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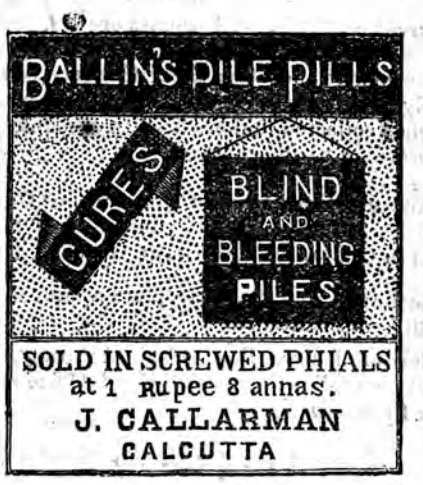

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